IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application:

09/683,921

Filing Date:

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Inventors:

Timothy P. Goggins

Title:

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Examiner: Art Unit:

Kumiko Koyama

2876

Attorney Docket:

NG-31336 (07845.0032)

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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a) and 1.10

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

Please see the attached.

USSN 09/683,921

PATENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

After careful review, Applicant hereby responds to a December 19, 2002 non-final Office Action. In view of this Response, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application.

Applicant has not added new matter with this Response, and intends the scope of the claims to be the same before and after this Response. Indeed, Applicant only offers this Response to clarify the invention for the Examiner in order to assist the Examiner's understanding of the same. More specifically, Applicant has not intended this Response to effectuate a narrowing of the claims, foreclose techniques that are not reasonably foreseeable at this time, or effect the applicability and scope of the Docurine of Equivalents.